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1975/04/09

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

~~SECRET~~/SENSITIVE

ACTION

April 9, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: SECRETARY KISSINGER

FROM: W. R. SMYSER

SUBJECT: Instruction to Ambassador Martin on Evacuation

Attached is a proposed telegram from you to Ambassador Martin instructing him to reduce the American official presence in Vietnam to 1,250 personnel (Tab A).

This figure of 1,250 represents Graham Martin's own estimate in his telegram (Tab B) on the minimum personnel required to carry out essential programs, though Martin appears to regard it as a goal rather than as an immediate target.

This instruction does not prejudice our later decisions, though it obviously needs to be carried out with an appreciation to the "political and military realities on the ground" that both Martin and State have cited.

RECOMMENDATION:

That you clear the attached telegram at Tab A.

APPROVE _____ DISAPPROVE _____

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E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.5
NSC Memo, 11/24/98, State Dept. Guidelines
By KOH, NARA, Date 2/10/00

~~SECRET~~/SENSITIVE

Declassified

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

April 9, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

SIR:

Attached for your approval is a message to Ambassador Martin in Saigon instructing him to proceed to evacuate the American community there to a level of 1,250 and to encourage the non-official American community to reduce their numbers.

for George S. Springsteen
Executive Secretary

Attachment:

Secret/Nodis cable to Saigon

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SECRET

EA/VN:PSORG/EA:RHMILLER:AOA
4/9/75 EXT. 20272
THE SECRETARY

EA-MR. HABIB
S/S-
S-

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E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.5
State Dept. Guidelines
By KBH, NARA, Date 2/10/00

IMMEDIATE SAIGON

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E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: AEMR, VS

SUBJECT: E & E
FOR THE AMBASSADOR FROM THE SECRETARY
REF: SAIGON 4527

1. I GREATLY APPRECIATE THE CONTINGENCY PLANNING TRANSMITTED REFTEL, PARTICULARLY AS I REALIZE THE COMPLEXITY OF THE PROBLEM AND THE FORCED DRAFT THAT YOU AND YOUR STAFF ARE WORKING UNDER. WE WILL BE STUDYING YOUR PLANS CAREFULLY IN ORDER TO GIVE YOU THE BEST AND MOST EXPEDITIOUS SUPPORT POSSIBLE.

2. IN LIGHT OF RENEWED FIGHTING IN MR 3 AND MR 4, AND INTELLIGENCE REPORTS THAT THE NORTH VIETNAMESE MAY BE PLANNING AN ATTACK IN THE SAIGON AREA IN THE NEAR FUTURE, I BELIEVE IT IS MOST URGENT THAT WE REDUCE THE AMERICAN PRESENCE IN SOUTH VIET-NAM TO THE MINIMUM PERSONNEL RESOURCES REQUIRED TO CARRY ON THE ESSENTIAL PROGRAM. YOU SHOULD THEREFORE : AS EXPEDITIOUSLY AS POSSIBLE, AND WITH APPROPRIATE REGARD FOR WHAT YOU HAVE DESCRIBED AS THE INTERRELATIONSHIP OF THE POLITICAL AND MILITARY REALITIES ON THE GROUND, PROCEED TO REDUCE THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY TO THE APPROXIMATELY 1,250 YOU MENTIONED IN PARA 1 (A) (B).

SECRET

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3. CONCURRENTLY, WITH YOUR EFFORTS TO REDUCE OFFICIAL PERSONNEL, YOU SHOULD ENCOURAGE THE NON-OFFICIAL AMERICAN COMMUNITY TO REDUCE THEIR NUMBERS BY SENDING OUT DEPENDENTS AND LESS ESSENTIAL PERSONNEL.

4. FINALLY, WE WILL IN THE MEANTIME BE WORKING URGENTLY ON THE MASSIVE AND COMPLEX PROBLEM OF EVACUATION OF VIETNAMESE BASED ON YOUR STUDY, WITH A VIEW TO COMING PROMPTLY TO THE DECISIONS WHICH WILL HAVE TO BE MADE HERE TO SUPPORT YOUR EFFORT.YY

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